

June 6, 1969

Dear Khun Prasidh:

I apologize for my long delay in writing to you, but these first two weeks back in New York have been busy ones for me as I have tried to catch up on back correspondence and back duties after having been away for seven weeks.

Before I go any further let me again say thank you to you, your wife, and daughter for the wonderful dinner and fine evening I spent with you. I enjoyed every minute of it.

Since coming back to New York I went to see Mrs. Hillyer once at Pacific World Artists, Inc. At that time she had not yet received a letter from you, but perhaps you have written to her now. Like most booking offices I've seen her office was small, but very busy. She and her staff were busily engaged in arrangements for bringing the Kabuki Theatre from Japan to the United States for a tour next fall. Since the tour is being sponsored by a couple organizations interested in Japan and is under the patronage of a Japanese prince, I believe there is some subsidy provided for that large company. I think Mrs. Hillyer may also be getting some help in some way from Japan Air Lines (probably through the means of purchasing advertising in the program and on the posters). From what I could detect her organization seems to be a reputable one doing a pretty good job. I could not tell, of course, how satisfactory her work is.

I spoke to Miss Bennett and learned that she had never heard of Mrs. Hillyer which came as a surprise to me, because Miss Bennett knows almost everyone in any way connected with the dance in this country. Miss Bennett did tell me that it would not be possible for anyone (meaning herself and probably Mr. Reinhart) to join with Mrs. Hillyer. Only one booking agent could handle your tour. For others to join in would be against practice and probably ethics of the profession in this country.

I have tried several times to reach Mr. Reinhart, but so far without success. Either he has been out of the city or he has been too busy to talk to me even on the telephone. I decided to write you therefore, without waiting until I could reach him.

When talking to Mrs. Hillyer I told her of the difficulties I thought there would be to raising money in Bangkok to pay for any part of your tour. I must say she wasn't too happy for me to tell her that. She told me that she was trying to see if any money could be raised here to help. I gave her the names of several American businesses doing business in Thailand and suggested she try to approach them for help. She said she would, but at that time it did not seem very hopeful.

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Since my talk with Mrs. Hillyer was about 10 days ago, perhaps by now you have had further information. In any event I hope something can be worked out so that you can make another tour of the United States next year.

At a meeting of the Thailand Council of the Asia Society this week I mentioned the possibility of your company making a tour and everyone was enthusiastic about that possibility. I doubt if any of those people are in a position to help, however. The Asia Society seems to have considerably reduced the funds it had for such programs.

I am afraid that this letter is not very hopeful for you, but I am still being optimistic and hope that something can be done.

Please give my regards to your wife and daughter. I hope all of you are well and in good spirits.

Sincerely yours,

*James R. Basche, Jr.*  
James R. Basche, Jr.

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